

Socket Gets Its Fiber



From left to right, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, Socket Co-Owner and Vice President of Sales and Marketing Carson Coffman, and Socket Co-Owner, President and CEO George Pfenninger

It was an announcement so big that the governor himself showed up to deliver it: Columbia's own Socket has been awarded \$23.7 million by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build a fiber-optic network in areas of Fulton and some rural parts of Callaway County. For customers whose best option has been a painfully slow dial-up connection, the 20 Mbps speed of the fiber-optic service will be like trading up to a Ferrari from a Model T.

But it's not just customers who will reap rewards. The local economy will also get a boost from the jobs the project will be bringing in.

HERE ARE THE NUMBERS, ACCORDING TO SOCKET:

- >>> An estimated 525 jobs will be created as a result of the project.
- >>> 20 local direct Socket jobs
- >>> 45 local contract labor jobs
- >>> 460 indirect jobs
- >>> 348 construction and engineering jobs
- >>> 112 indirect jobs in other categories
- >>> The project will serve 3,033 premises.
- >>> 2,728 homes
- >>> 269 businesses
- >>> 36 critical community institutions